

Serial No.: 09/333,806

Attorney Docket No.: 99P7652US02

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 13, and 20 have been amended to more particularly point out applicants' invention.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,145,083. A Terminal Disclaimer accompanies this amendment. Thus, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,550,968 ("Miller") in view of Pinard et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,533,110 ("Pinard"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Miller or Pinard, either singly or in combination.

As discussed in the Specification, and in response to previous Official Actions, the present invention relates to a Telephony over LAN (ToL) system having a graphical user interface (GUI) wherein an authorized or guest user may be locked within a ToL window, having full access to the ToL features, but denied access to other parts of the computer system external the ToL window. Thus, an unauthorized user cannot access computer functions outside the ToL window – he does, however, have full access within the ToL window.

According to certain embodiments, the terminal user or subscriber may click on a "Guest" button on the ToL client GUI screen before leaving the computer. The ToL guest user may then execute the call normally. According to a first embodiment of the invention, the ToL client locks the user into the ToL client screen. Keystrokes and mouse cursor movements which would allow exiting the ToL client are prevented. According to a second embodiment, of the invention, the ToL client screen is "maximized" and the minimize or resize window functions are blocked. When the terminal subscriber returns, a password is entered to regain full access to the computer.

Thus, claim 1 and claim 20 have been amended to recite "locking a guest user into said ToL client window by preventing unauthorized use of functions of

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said computer external to said ToL client window in said guest mode, while allowing full access to features within said ToL client window;" claim 6 has been amended to recite "means for preventing an unauthorized user from accessing functions of said computer external to said ToL client window while allowing full access to functions of said ToL client window;" and claim 13 has been amended to recite "wherein said microprocessor is programmed to monitor signals from said mouse controller and said keyboard controller and allow full performance of functions related to ToL operations within a ToL window and not allow performance of other functions not related to ToL operations external said ToL window."

In contrast, as discussed in response to previous Official Actions, neither Pinard nor Miller have anything to do with preventing access to functions outside the particular application that is currently open while allowing access to functions within the window. Indeed, Miller does not even appear to recognize the desirability of preventing access to other applications outside a particular one. Instead, Miller relates merely to creating windows that have a region of obscuration within them. That is, Miller simply obscures portions of a graphical user interface window so that data cannot be read within the window. In other words, Miller provides a region of obscuration that does not allow full access to functions within a window.

For example, in FIG. 4 of Miller, the Home Phone and Address entries 48 and 50 in the window 42 are obscured (as compared to the corresponding fields in FIG. 3), i.e., are features within a window for which limited access is provided. The entries 48 and 50, however, are not themselves "ToL windows" or even windows; they are merely features of the window 42. A user of Miller could access other functions of the computer outside the window 42. Embodiments of the present invention, however, would prevent a user from accessing functions outside the particular application in use, i.e., outside the window 42. That is, while embodiments of the invention as claimed allow full access to functions within a window, Miller provides for limited access to such functions.

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The Official Action states at paragraph 6 that

[i]t would have been desirable [to provide] greater security of use of the ToL system by a user. For example, prevention of unauthorized access to the controls of a ToL interface within a GUI could prevent unauthorized long distance calls, or access to user records, while still allowing certain types of calls, e.g., local or emergency calls.

Even assuming for the sake of argument that this is true, Applicants note that this does not relate to the claims at issue. That is, the claims relate to preventing unauthorized access to functions of the computer outside the ToL window by preventing access to GUI controls outside the ToL window, not within the ToL window. Indeed, as discussed in response to the previous Official Action, neither Miller nor Pinard remotely relate to such a function.

The Official Action further states that at col. 3, lines 30-67, Miller teaches that "access to information and utilization of applications outside a client GUI window are prevented by preventing access to the access controls for such inside the GUI." Applicants respectfully disagree. It is quite clear from a close reading of Miller that Miller is discussing obscuring controls within a window, not preventing access to controls outside a window.

Applicants reproduce below Miller, col. 3, lines 29-44:

The present invention provides a method for restricting access to information in predetermined controls of windows in a graphical user interface, comprising the steps of, during creation of a window having a predetermined control, determining whether a user requesting creation of the window is authorized to access the control; if the requesting user is authorized, sizing and defining the predetermined control within the window and displaying the predetermined control within the window so that the information in the predetermined control is accessible; and if the requesting user is not authorized, sizing and defining a region of obscuration coincidental with at least the information in the predetermined control, and displaying the predetermined control within the window so that the so that the information is obscured from view by the region of obscuration.

Thus, as has been discussed in response to previous Official Actions, Miller makes quite clear that it is concerned with limiting access to predetermined controls within windows, and not controls outside the windows, as generally recited in

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the claims at issue. Indeed, one cannot prevent access to windows outside the ToL window by using the teachings of Miller. One can only obscure regions, i.e., provide less than full access to functions within a window, rather than providing full access to functions within a window and limiting access to functions external the window.

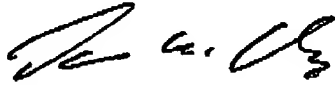
Pinard is relied on merely for allegedly teaching use of a ToL window. Because, however, like Miller, the subject matter relied on does not relate to a system having a graphical user interface (GUI) wherein an authorized or guest user may be locked within a ToL window, having access to the ToL features, but denied access to other parts of the computer system, as generally recited in the claims at issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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